

noting once again exactly what the retirement provisions are, what Senator Wesely has suggested is that the retirement age be reduced from 65 to 62, now that is the retirement age with full benefits, no reduction in the annuities but the retirement age with full benefits, 65 to 62. My amendment would eliminate that change and go back to the old law which was 65, where you could retire at 65 with full benefits. There are a couple of other...that over simplifies a little bit. There are a couple of other kinks in that change that Senator Wesely has made, but the change from 65 to 62 is the fundamental change that incurs the huge 8.5 million dollar increase. So once again I suggest that we strike from the bill the early retirement provisions and start getting the bill down to a size which is reasonable, which is good policy, which does some good for teachers and for retired teachers but does not just irresponsibly spend some real big bucks. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 457 started with an offering of an amendment by Senator Wesely and now we are on an amendment to the amendment by Senator Beutler. I have a list of names here, Senator Remmers, do you wish to speak at this time? Very well.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I really had intended to speak to the bill but I do want to speak to Senator Beutler's amendment. I just want to make a couple of points. One, Senator Beutler speaks of the age 70 mandatory retirement age, I think that speaks to a different thing than the 62 year voluntary retirement. The 70 year age that we changed said that you can't fire a person because he is 65 years old. In this case we are talking about somebody retiring voluntarily. Now it may be necessary for us to pare our budget somewhere along the line, but I personally would like to see the whole package as Senator Wesely has introduced it here accepted, and if we have to pare down, pare down part of all of it. I think the 62 year retirement, voluntary retirement, is an important part. I...you know when you are working with young people in the school room, it is a little different story than when you are working in the factory or a business office or someplace else. There are a lot of our teachers